

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06038 080822Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1965
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6038

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS
SUBJECT: KIM CHI-HA'S REPUDIATION OF HIS CONFESSION MADE PUBLIC

REF: (1) SEOUL 4984 (2) SEOUL 5157

1. AUGUST 5 JAPAN TIMES HAS ARTICLE ON PAGE 5 HEADED,
"TORTURED BY KCIA: POET KIM", IN WHICH IT IS REPORTED THAT
IN 12,000 WORD "DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE" MADE PUBLIC IN
JAPAN, POET KIM CHI-HA REPUDIATED CONFESSION HE MADE IN
MARCH THAT HE IS COMMUNIST. ACCORDING TO TIMES, KIM
REVEALS THAT HE SIGNED CONFESSION DICTATED TO HIM AFTER
FIVE OR SIX DAYS OF POLICE PRESSURE HAD LEFT HIM TOTALLY
EXHAUSTED AND CONVINCED THAT POLICE DETERMINED TO BRAND
HIM AS COMMUNIST NO MATTER WHAT HE SAID OR DID.

2. KIM'S "DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE" WAS REPORTEDLY
SMUGGLED OUT OF PRISON BY PRISONER BEING RELEASED. IT
WAS DELIVERED BY EX-PRISONER TO FATHER YUN HYONG-CHUNG, WHO
IN TURN SENT IT TO EXPELLED MARYKNOLL FATHER JAMES SINNOTT
IN U.S. FATHER YUN, WHO HAS BEEN CATHOLIC HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVIST BUT IS NOW RETIRED, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT
HE SENT DOCUMENT TO FATHER SINNOTT AND THAT IT WAS
BEING PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. AND JAPAN. HE FURTHER NOTED
THAT ROKG MUST HAVE DOCUMENT SINCE JAPANESE LAWYER
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NOKADAIRA, WHO CAME TO SEOUL AUGUST 2 TO ATTEND TRIAL OF
NCCC-K GENSEC KIM KWAN-SOK HAD A COPY OF KIM'S DECLARATION
WITH HIM. NOKADAIRA WAS DETAINED BY KOREAN AUTHORITIES
FOR FOUR HOURS AT KIMPO AIRPORT AND HIS DOCUMENTS WERE

CONFISCATED. FATHER YUN SAID THAT AS YET HE HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY KCIA CONCERNING THE STATEMENT.

3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN AWARE THAT KIM REPUDIATED HIS CONFESSION IN A PREPARED STATEMENT AND THAT IT WAS IN HANDS OF CARDINAL KIM, BECAUSE CARDINAL REVEALED THIS FACT TO EMBOFF AT JULY 4 RECEPTION. (REFTEL 1). AT THAT TIME, CARDINAL SAID HE WAS HOLDING DOCUMENT IN RESERVE TO USE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROKG AT APPROPRIATE TIME. CARDINAL DID NOT DISCLOSE THAT DOCUMENT HAD BEEN SENT OUT OF THE COUNTRY NOR DID HE OFFER A COPY. BOTH CARDINAL KIM AND FATHER YUN IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF HAVE STATED THAT BEST PROTECTION FOR KIM CHI-HA IS ATTENTION HIS TRIAL IS RECEIVING IN THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES. PUBLICATION ABROAD OF KIM'S DECLARATION THAT HIS CONFESSION RESULT OF TORTURE WHEN HIS TRIAL IS ABOUT TO BEGIN WOULD SEEM TO SERVE THAT PURPOSE.

4. THUS FAR, NOT A WORD ABOUT KIM'S "DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE" HAS APPEARED IN THE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED KOREAN PRESS. NOW THAT KIM HAS PUBLICLY REPUDIATED HIS CONFESSION ON GROUNDS IT EXTRACTED BY TORTURE, GOVERNMENT'S TASK IN TRYING HIM FOR VIOLATION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST ACT HAS TO BE MORE COMPLICATED. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT GOVERNMENT'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE.

5. FOR TOKYO: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPY OF KIM'S DECLARATION IF EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN ONE. TIMES ARTICLE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE PUBLISHED UNDER AUSPICES OF JAPANESE CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE.
ERICSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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